

# ARCADIA--BY THE "STROLLER" IN THE FLORIDA GROWER

Down the southern part of DeSoto county, in about the same latitude as Stuart, on the east coast, is the handsome and progressive little city of Arcadia. I have been in Arcadia before, but until this week I never had shown the attractions of the community, and really did not know what to offer.

In the first place, Arcadians claim that this is the heaviest citrus shipping point in all Florida. They say that between 400,000 and 450,000 boxes of fruit go through Arcadia's packing houses every season, and in addition to all this, that it is one of the trucking centers of Florida, although they do not give shipping figures, except to claim that 350,000 crates of vegetables are shipped from the county yearly, and that the citrus growers for the whole county are 750,000 boxes. Surely there must be some error in the soil of a section that will produce like this, and there certainly

Arcadia is a city of over 4,000 population. It has three railways, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Charlotte Harbor and Northern, and the new East and West Coast Railway, the latter being from Bradentown, and not being quite completed, though rails are laid within a mile of the city, and it is claimed that this same railroad will eventually run north of the big lake and hit the east coast at Stuart. One can readily conceive that railroads are seeking Arcadia without some reason.

I was shown Arcadia from one end to the other by the live wire president of the board of trade, Mr. J. L. Jones, and he certainly knows this section, for he has been a resident of Arcadia since 1885, at which time Arcadia was called "Tater Hill Bluff." The railroad came shortly after that time, and Mr. Jones tells an interesting story of a Baptist Preacher Hendry, who was influential in having the new city named after a young lady who had been christened Arcadia.

We drove over miles of street within the city limits and viewed some of the handsome residential sections that would do credit to any city of twice the size. They are beginning the building of a modern type of bungalow at Arcadia, and I am indeed glad to see this in any community. Mr. Jones states that within the calendar year 1914 over 300 residences were built, and he was followed quickly by Secretary Gardner, of the board of trade, who added that there was hardly a home vacant in the whole city. I believe he said there was none, but I don't want to make it too strong.

Listen to Mr. Jones: "We have our city water; one twelve inch well that is 530 feet deep, an eight inch well 575 feet deep, and this water is piped to all the business and to two-thirds of the residential sections. We have a good sewerage system as there is in all Florida. We have an electric light and ice plant, and will have a gas plant in operation inside of thirty days. You want to know about the churches? I think we have them of all denominations. Let's see: There's the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Adventist, Episcopalian, Catholic, Campbellites, Lutherans, Dunkards, and the Holy Rollers, the latter people having just finished a nice little building. Our county court house is brand new; finished last year, and cost \$115,000."

Mr. Jones told of the cattle industry. Countless thousands of half wild cattle roam the prairies to the east of Arcadia, and many of the old time monarchs still live there. There were the Kings, the Hendrys, the Parsons and the Whiddens, who made Arcadia the cattle center of south Florida, though this industry is growing fast, and no doubt we shall in a few short years see the greater part of this wild prairie land in cultivation and under fence, stocked with the descendants of the wild herds and imported breeds; half breeds that will be far handsomer animals than the scrawny and range cattle do not mix well, and so the range beasts must go. Over 10,000 head are shipped yearly from DeSoto county.

Said Secretary Gardner: "I must tell you of two things that are peculiar to Arcadia. One is that it is a strictly plantation town; possibly the hardest in Florida in which to get a drop of liquor. In consequence I do not believe we ever have any use for our police force; we could leave our doors unlocked from one year's end to the other, and there would be no stealing. Another fact is that there has never been one mercantile failure in all the history of Arcadia." This certainly speaks well for the stability of the city. It has two banks, and Mr. Gardner claims that the per capita deposits are more of any other city in Florida, and that Arcadia's per capita wealth is greater than any other city in the country, and that he can prove it.

Arcadia has eight packing houses for citrus fruit, and not an Exchange house in the lot. The Florida Citrus Exchange had two unfortunate years in Arcadia. The first year the association was formed the packing was done by a contract packer, and the result to the growers was not good.

Their fruit had the lowest average in price received of any association within the Exchange. The next year the association bought an old packing house with old equipment, and placed in charge a man who was an old time packer, and who had no ideas of the modern method of packing fruit. Again the result was the same; the lowest prices of any association, and before the season was over the growers asked leave to withdraw from the Exchange, permission being given. For the past few weeks Organizer Curry, of the Exchange, has done wonderful work in organizing the growers there, and there now seems to be no doubt but that a very strong association will be formed in Arcadia, and that it will have as fine packing house as any in Florida, and of the best management. It would seem that the last stronghold of the commission was to be successfully invaded. I know that if Arcadia will give Exchange principles and Exchange packing a fair trial they will be satisfied with the results, for their fruit is as good as any grown anywhere.

The city of Arcadia has two papers, the DeSoto County News being a daily, and the Arcadia Enterprise a weekly. Editor Langford, of the News, goes to Tallahassee as representative from DeSoto county, and another Mr. Jones will be in his chair during his absence. The Enterprise is presided over by Editors Carter and McBride. I found all of these gentlemen to be very genial indeed, and I feel sure that Mr. Langford will work earnestly for a horticultural bill during the next session. I urge readers who may be interested in this section to send for sample copies of both, not forgetting to send 5 cents. They will give more information regarding Arcadia and vicinity than could be found in the Grover in a year. Also send for the very handsome booklets issued by the Board of Trade. They are free for the asking.

I found the soil around Arcadia to be very good indeed. It is of that type that will grow either fruit or vegetables, that combination soil we hear so much about where growers raise vegetables between the young citrus trees. I find that Arcadia is fast becoming a melon section, and being able to produce melons earlier than the old sections, gets a good price for their product. I could not learn about what acreage of fruit or vegetables are worked here, but no doubt there are over a thousand acres in citrus fruit and more than half that in truck. The immediate country is well drained, the Peace river and numerous creeks affording a good outlet. This is a typical flat woods section, except along the streams but is of the best type of flat lands, when they can be drained, and are of the richest state affords.

The Board of Trade men want me to mention the fact that DeSoto county fruit took three-fourths of the prizes offered at the state fair held at Tampa in 1910. I could not begin to publish this list in a short article such as this must be, for it would take more than a page of the Grover. Just a few will give the reader some idea. They received the premium for the county making the best and largest display of citrus fruits; for making the best and largest display of agricultural products; for the best and largest display of vegetables; the best and largest display of live stock; the largest and best educational exhibit; the largest and best display of poultry; the largest and best floricultural exhibit; the best and largest horticultural exhibit; the best exhibit of hay; the best county of south Florida; the grand champion county, and the county having the best arranged display of citrus fruit; the largest number of varieties and the best quality.

I will say that I was not in Florida at the time this fair was held, but these claims, and ten times as many more, are made in the Board of Trade booklet, and I accept them as being correct, as I have never heard them disputed. Surely, such a county must have merit. Below are a few extracts from the same booklet:

"Our lands produce hog feed in great variety and abundance. Little or no cholera is heard of. A forty-acre tract laid out in five-acre strips, growing sorghum, peas, Japanese cane, sugar cane, chufas, cassava, sweet potatoes and corn, will furnish all the necessary feed to fatten a large drove of pork, and to spare. The meat is cured at the local ice plant for one cent per pound. There is a good local demand, and the markets of both Tampa and Jacksonville always afford an outlet for any and all surplus at good prices."

"DeSoto county ships annually to local and foreign markets 10,000 head of beef cattle. These shipments go to Tampa, Key West and Cuba. There are more cattle raised and shipped from this county than from any other three counties in the state. The cattle are all fattened on the ranges--no penning and fattening--practically the gross receipts represent net profit. This is one of the largest industries in the state. Open range practically unlimited, a minimum cost, no hard winters, the cattle come off of the ranges ready for slaughter. A small

herd of good cattle for raising dairy stock and for producing dairy products for the local markets, using the waste for calves and hogs and fertilizer for general farming crops and groves, will be found to be a very profitable enterprise. No trouble to produce all the necessary feed.

"This healthy locality offers splendid opportunities for development in this line. There is a good market at all times of the year for chickens and eggs, the price of the latter never less than 25 cents per dozen, and that to 50 cents during the winter months. Most all of the eggs consumed are shipped here, and those that are fresh from the country also find a ready sale at 5 cents more on a dozen than those shipped in. For chickens are sold for 50 cents each on the markets, and can be readily disposed of at from \$4 to \$6 per dozen."

DeSoto county promises to have fine roads as can be found anywhere in Florida. The roads will be built in districts, and each district will use material best available and best suited to its needs. Some sections will doubt use marl rock, as it is present in quantities, another finds that sand that is peculiarly suited for building sand-oil roads, and others will use clay. I was told that the district which includes Arcadia will spend \$350,000, and that the amount available within the year will be \$700,000.

The people of DeSoto county are hospitable, and I feel sure that any new comer will find true hospitality. I also feel sure that information is asked of the Arcadia Board of Trade that it will be given straight for, for I know that the officers are for a square deal for every one who seeks investment. Just be reasonably cautious.

The day was a splendid one. Spring was in the air; the beautiful new green leaves were everywhere apparent, and, taken altogether, it was one of the most enjoyable days ever spent in this beautiful Florida. I hope to go to Arcadia again some time.

The slogan of these boosters is "Arcadia Always Ahead."—Florida Grower.

## WANT GUARANTEE AGAINST ATTACK.

Germans Will Continue War Until Future Peace Is Certain.

London, March 16.—A Reuter dispatch from Berlin quotes the German minister of the interior and vice-chancellor, Clemens Delbrueck, as declaring in a speech in the upper chamber Germany's intention to continue the war until she obtains the guarantees she desires.

"If we were satisfied merely with repelling the enemy," said the vice-chancellor, "we should soon have peace. But we shall not sheath the sword until we obtain our guarantee that our enemies will not attack us again. Discussion of these guarantees now would not further German interests."

Herr Delbrueck spoke after the upper chamber had adopted the budget without discussion. This, he said, was unprecedented, adding:

"It shows that all partisan elements are united by a firm determination to win the war which has been forced upon us. Our enemies have been repeatedly defeated by our unconquerable troops, and they are now going to try to starve us, waging war against our women and children, instead of our armies and fleet."

After reference to the great agricultural, industrial and economic resources of Germany, he said:

"We are organized from top to bottom and bound together by a fixed purpose. Those who are compelled to remain at home will do their best to contribute to the victory."

"France wants the provinces she lost in '71. Russia wants to make a province of Prussia. England wants to destroy German commerce and sea power. But what our enemies have accomplished—the loss of the greater part of our colonies—is without decisive influence on the war."

"On the other hand, Belgium, a great industrial section of France, and part of Russian Poland are in our possession. There are no enemies on German soil; all of their efforts to crush Germany have been frustrated."

At the conclusion of Herr Delbrueck's address the diet adjourned to May 27th.

## 1,050,029 PRUSSIAN CASUALTY LIST.

Copenhagen, March 16.—The Prussian casualty list published today in Berlin shows 1,050,029 Prussians killed, wounded or missing. This list does not include Bavarian, Wurtemberg, Saxon or navy losses.

## GEORGIA MURDERER HANGED TODAY.

Cordele, Ga., March 16.—James Hill, convicted of the murder of Donald Forehand, was hanged this morning in the county jail.

## DOUBLE SERVICE AUTOMOBILE TIRE

Guaranteed 7,000 Miles Service. ABSOLUTELY PUNCTUREPROOF.

Double Service Tires are double thickness of the best standard rubber tires.

This 100 per cent. greater yielding surface naturally gives that much more mileage and service. The average of 12 piles of tough fabric and one inch surface tread rubber makes these tires absolutely punctureproof.

These tires excel all others for use in the country over rough and roads as well as on hard pavement. They are as easy riding as any other pneumatic.

space and pressure being maintained. They are the best.

LOGGERS DIRECTOR OF CENSUS. March 16.—Samuel South Carolina, was today as director of the census to William Harris, of Georgia, appointed a member of the federal trade commission.

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Other sizes not listed in above also furnished. None at 10 per cent. additional.

Terms: Payment with order at above special prices, a 10 per cent. discount allowed on orders for two or more tires. All personal checks must be certified.

Try these tires and be convinced of their very high qualities. Not sold through dealers.

DOUBLE SERVICE TIRE & RUBBER CO., AKRON, OHIO.



## GOOD TASTE

is apparent in all our work, and we allow nothing to leave our shops that has not been subjected to our best personal supervision. Many believe a monument to their dead is beyond their means. We think we can show them how they can afford a pretty good one.

## WE POINT WITH PRIDE

to our monument work in this locality. We make to your order, but we always contribute our artistic and professional knowledge in the selection of a design.

SOUTH FLORIDA MARBLE WORKS Harry L. Finney, Proprietor BARTOW, FLORIDA

FRED S. GORE Local Agent Arcadia, Fla.

SYRUP CANS

10,000 More Just Arrived.

Order Now.

Stocks Limited.

L. L. MORGAN & SONS

ARCADIA, FLORIDA

## 20,000 CARS OF CITRUS FRUIT BEEN SHIPPED.

(From Saturday)

Yester day, March 16, 1915, 20,000 cars of citrus fruit were shipped from Arcadia.

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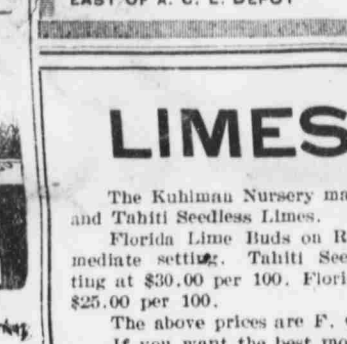
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IT WILL SOON BE FAN TIME AGAIN

Have you prepared for it? You should take your fan to some electrician and have him overhaul it—if you don't it will soon burn out and then you will blame us for it. Be the wise one and have it cleaned—it will last much longer.

Arcadia Ice and Electric Co.

PHONE 180

## VICE-PRESIDENT ON MEXICAN SITUATION

Chicago, March 16.—The vice president, leaving with a party for the Mexican situation, stated the United States will not intervene in Mexico, but will influence the republics, as the situation well received.

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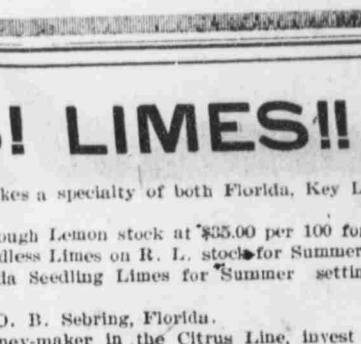
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